

Application Number: 10/685,187

Reply To Office Action Of JULY 28, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-32 were pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 15-17, 20, 26, 28 and 30. The Examiner has indicated Claims 13, 14, 22-25, 27, 29 and 31 are allowed. The Examiner has indicated claims 2, 5, 10-12, 18-19 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants note that there were no rejections on previously presented Claim 32. Accordingly, Claims 1, 15, and 19 have been amended. Claims 33-36 have been added. The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. Support for the amendments can be found in the drawings and throughout the instant specification.

In order to expedite prosecution and issuance of a notice of allowance for the instant application, and pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 15, and 19. Furthermore, Applicants have cancelled Claims 2, 12, 18 and 21 without prejudice to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more related applications, as discussed below. Applicants have added new claims 33-36 which are fully supported by the instant specification, and are based on subject matter the examiner has indicated was allowable. After entry of this amendment claims 1, 3-11, 13-17, 19-20, 22-36 will be pending in the application.

The examiner has stated that, "*Claims 2, 5, 10-12, 18, 19 and 21 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.*" As such, applicants have amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of Claim 2. Accordingly, applicants have cancelled Claims 2 and 12. In addition, applicants have amended Claim 15 to include all the limitations of Claim 18. Accordingly, applicants have cancelled Claims 18 and 21. Applicants have also amended Claim 19 to depend from currently amended Claim 15, rather than cancelled Claim 18. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 15, along with all their respective dependant claims, are presently in condition for allowance.

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Applicants note that there were no rejections on Claim 32 which depends from Claim 15, however, with the amendments to Claim 15, Applicants submit Claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

The Examiner has indicated Claims 5 and 10 contained allowable subject matter. New claims 33-36 have been added to further define aspects of the invention, which are fully supported by the instant specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. New independent Claim 33 has all the elements and structure as original Claim 1; however, in addition recites the limitations of Claim 10, which the Examiner had indicated was allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New independent claim 35 has all the elements and structure as original Claim 1; however, in addition, recites all the limitations of Claim 5, which the Examiner had indicated was allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For all of the reasons discussed previously, none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a device according to the present invention as claimed in new Claims 33 and 35. Without discussing each in detail, it will be appreciated that the claims depending from Claims 33 and 35 recite additional features that are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

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Conclusion

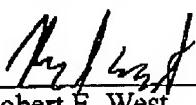
In view of the Amendments submitted and the Remarks above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 3-11, 13-17, 19-20, 22-36 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner earnestly reconsider his rejections of the present application. Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fees necessary in connection with this Response and any other fees necessary in connection with this application, to Deposit Account Number 02-1666.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments and consider the remarks made herein. Consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully submitted.

Any questions concerning this application or amendment may be directed to the undersigned agent of applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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